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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, we lift our hearts to You. Lord, please shower Your mercy on our Nation, as we seek to deal with the Las Vegas mass shooting. Please show mercy to the victims and their families. Lord, in spite of this horrific act, give us faith to believe that evil will not ultimately prevail in our world. May this tragedy motivate us to plant and water seeds of peace as we cultivate a greater respect for the laws of seedtime and harvest. Cut in pieces the cords of wickedness that seek to bind us.

Today, guide our Senators and use them as ambassadors of reconciliation in our Nation and world.

Eternal God, although we walk in the midst of trouble, stretch forth Your hands and revive us with Your might.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE LAS VEGAS ATTACK

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate now observe a moment of silence for the victims of the Las Vegas attack.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senate will now observe a moment of silence for the victims of the attack in Las Vegas.

(Moment of silence.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. YOUNG). The majority leader is recognized.

LAS VEGAS MASS SHOOTING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the news we awoke to this morning was heartbreaking. What happened in Las Vegas is shocking, it is tragic, and for those affected and their families, it is devastating. It is hard to even imagine their pain. I hope they will know that we are praying for them now. I hope they will find strength in the love and kindness of those around them in these hours of such darkness and pain. I hope they will see that our country is standing by their side today.

Many Americans are still in shock. Others have begun to wonder why someone would do something this terrible. Investigators will continue their dedicated work in search of answers, but what is clear now is that this is a moment for national mourning and for prayer.

Just a moment ago, President Trump led the country in observing a moment of silence. As he noted this morning, we are all grateful for the courageous efforts of the first responders. They always put their lives on the line to save others. They do so with a selflessness that reminds us of the inherent courage and mercy that remains possible within each of us—light amidst the dark, hope in times of terrible grief.

The same is true of the national spirit of compassion that shines through our country in the moments when it is needed most. Whether it is lining up to donate blood or signing up to volunteer

their time, our fellow Americans are always there to offer what they can when others are in need.

We thank these Americans and law enforcement and the first responders for everything they have done. We thank them for their efforts that continue now.

We again send our condolences to everyone affected by this terrible tragedy.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Pai nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Ajit Varadaraj Pai, of Kansas, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of five years from July 1, 2016.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

LAS VEGAS MASS SHOOTING

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, there are a number of issues I wish to speak on today, but first I wish to extend my most sincere condolences to the victims of violence in Las Vegas.

What we witnessed last night was a tragedy without precedent. Today, our thoughts are with all those folks who have lost—the families, loved ones, and

• This “buller” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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